

## General Meeting

Friday March 19, 2010 7:30pm

\*\*\*\*UPSTAIRS\*\*\*\*

Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette

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<b>Newly-Licensed Members</b>	<b>2</b>
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**Affiliated  
Club**

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

### Beale Air Force Base PAVE-PAWS Radar System and the Amateur Radio 420 to 450 MHz (70cm) Band

Lt. Col. Keppler and Captain Leineger of the U.S. Air Force 7th Space Warning Squadron at Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, California will present this month's program on the PAVE-PAWS (Precision Acquisition Vehicle Entry-Phased Array Warning System) radar system constructed by the Raytheon Corporation.

*Air Force policy prohibits any audio and/or video recording of this unclassified presentation. Still photography is permissible.*



The 7th Space Warning Squadron's mission is to detect and track hostile missiles from the moment of launch, guide U.S. defensive interceptor missiles to destroy the hostile missiles in flight and track thousands of objects in space. Even miniscule space debris poses a threat of serious damage to the International Space Station, Space Shuttle, and the communications and navigational satellites. PAVE-PAWS radar beams reach outward for nearly several thousand miles in a semi-circular sweep.

### PRESIDENT'S QTC

### ROOM CHANGE FOR THIS MONTH'S CLUB MEETING AT OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Due to another event at the church, our Friday March 19, 2010 club meeting has been moved upstairs to the church sanctuary. Our normal parking lot will probably be full due to the other event so we will use the upper parking lot and street parking. Please do not park directly on the street in front of the church because that is an enforced no parking zone. We request you carpool, if possible, to our meeting and monitor 147.06+ W6CX repeater for parking information. — John Ronan, K3ZJJ

# **Welcome to Our Newly-Licensed Technician Class Club Members !!** Mitchell Boyce, W8DOD, Robert Clark, KJ6FNM, Shon Clark, KJ6FNN, Rob Guy, KJ6FNL, Scott Haskins, KJ6FAV, Kevin Locky, KJ6FAU, Chester Louie, KJ6FNR

## **MDARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

February 1, 2010

Presiding Officer – President John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM

The treasurer gave a report that was a comparison of the 2008 and 2009 financial statistics. K6XC moved to form a 2010 Budget committee with the intent of getting the budget under control. Seconded by Marty Heyman. Approved and the chairman will be chosen.

K3ZJJ spoke about Pacificon and what the club has to advance to fund it. A motion was made and approved to purchase Quick Books Pro. AF6PU asked about the President's plan for the budget. WA6JAU noted that the club committees should be submitting expenses to the budget committee.

WA6GBW gave the status of the club website. He stressed the fact that it is still a work in progress. It is being designed to work with IE8. Other IE editions will follow. He will also implement streaming audio from the voice repeaters. There was more discussion about streaming ATV video and FM audio.

K3ZJJ spoke about the Youth Program.

AF6PU and K3ZJJ discussed current training effort and testing which will be coming soon. They talked about the training agenda for 2010. AF6PU noted that he checked with other clubs to see how their youth classes were presented. He asked if our club were to be asked for mentors (elmers) would there be volunteers. Everyone felt there would be an adequate response. He talked about an ARRL checklist for mentoring and other publications for new Hams. K3ZJJ talked about working with other clubs on new Ham training. It was noted that AF6PU and K3ZJJ are heading up this 'Mentoring' committee. AF6RJ moved we should be putting a 'packet' together for new hams. It was seconded and approved. He said he would be working with the Alameda club on this matter. WA6JAU suggested that we have speakers and programs at meetings to address new Hams. John talked about a 'radio merit badge' for Boy Scouts put on by the Hornet RC.

AF6PU spoke about club logo products and showed around a brochure showing numerous examples of clothing, jackets and hats. He said that the company he is working with has always been a friend of MDARC. He also showed around wooden desk nameplates with name and call produced by a Benicia craftsman for approximately twenty dollars.

AF6PU proposed allowing members to pay their dues through PayPal and this was ratified.

A discussion was held about the Field Day location. None have been chosen yet.

K3ZJJ discussed the club phone service provided by AT&T. He asked about alternative, less expensive service. A discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM

Respectfully submitted by:  
Richard Fletcher, WA9UKA  
Secretary

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**Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX**  
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(925) 288-1730

*The Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

**President** - John Ronan K3ZJJ jtronan@aol.com  
**Vice President** - Dale McIntire AD6HD ad6hd@arrl.net  
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Rebecca Hinkley KI6VVT  
**Emergency Coordinator**  
Marty Heyman W6MDH mheyman@symas.com

**Director & Technical Committee Chair**  
Trevor Hall WA6JAU wa6jau@sbcglobal.net

**Directors At Large**  
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Chair Marty Heyman W6MDH  
Vice Chair Paula Costa KI6MPD

**Membership Chair** – Tom Deeble KA6SIP  
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

**The Carrier** Newsletter  
Editor, Matthew G. Vurek N4DLA n4dla@k6ori.com  
Printing & Mailing: Jim Siemons af6pu@arrl.net

Webmaster – Marvin Miller WA6GBW  
Assistant Webmaster - Patrick Rigney N6UPS  
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Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan AF6HQ  
Amateur Television Information -  
John Schuler W6DTV JOHNQRZ@aol.com

**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:**

**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>**

## **MDARC Club Meeting Minutes February 19, 2010**

Presided by President John Ronan, K3ZJJ

K3ZJJ opened the meeting at 7:40 PM

K3ZJJ introduced two members of the Alameda ARC. He noted that they are very active in the amateur radio education of youth. K3ZJJ then called for new members to stand and introduce themselves. He made special note of Jake Taylor, aged 12 years, who was a new ham this night. It was noted that 25 examinations of different classes were given this night including one extra class exam that passed. The successful examinees for new licenses and upgrades were introduced.

K3ZJJ presented an award to Paul Dickey, N6JOX, for his 5 years of service as club secretary through 2009. K3ZJJ then reminded everyone about the MDARC Yahoo group and told about the numerous benefits of using it.

John Stewart, KM6QX, told about upcoming public service events and called for volunteers to serve at those.

AD6HD announced that there would be an auction this coming April and asked for volunteers.

"Tex" asked for help from anyone in the use of X11 software.

K3ZJJ brought up the subject of Pacifcon and explained the purpose of this event. He said the dates have been set as the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel.

Dick Brown, KT6X, gave further statistics on the new licenses and upgrades this evening.

John Primus, AF6RJ, explained his effort in amateur radio training at the Salvation Army and the cooperation going on with the Alameda ARC.

Jim Siemons, AF6PU talked about youth education and noted that new programs were in the offing.

An interested person noted that some local High Schools have CERT classes that included training on the use of the Family Radio Service. He said further that ham radio use should be included.

K3ZJJ, said the program for next month is still to be announced and there is a possibility that a speaker from Beale AFB could be here. He went on to clarify the situation at Beale.

Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, said that the location of next month's meeting is to be announced. He stated that another group might be using our usual location.

After the break the membership chair spoke briefly about renewals.

David Hancock, KI6AWR, gave a detailed and informative program about batteries and emergency power until the end of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Richard Fletcher, WA9UKA Secretary

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## **We need lots of ham radio volunteers for a great public service event that is coming up on Sunday, April 25, 2010.**

It is the 100 mile Diablo Century Bike Ride that takes place in the areas of the Mount Diablo foothills, Morgan Territory, Livermore Hills, Danville, and Blackhawk. We'll need hams at check points along the route, in SAG vehicles, at net control in Walnut Creek, and on bikes or motorcycles. The radio coordinator for this event is Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE. Contact Terry at ifepro@sprynet.com or me, Pete at ke6zim@arrl.net or pharris125@comcast.net.

These are great events, wonderful experiences, and great learning opportunities. They bring us to beautiful local places. Best of all they are fun and we do something good for the community. It's a blast to engage in the camaraderie of being part of a radio team. Hams who don't participate are really missing out. Our communication is often necessary for the event to even take place. We work in coordination with police, Park Rangers and Search and Rescue teams. It's fairly frequent on events that there are incidents in which we serve a vital role in providing safety and emergency services to one or more participants. So, although it is fun, it is also serious business.

For a full list of upcoming events, see the MDARC public services page at: <http://www.mdarc.org/publicservice.html>

Thanks - Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

MDARC Public Services Coordinator 925-228-4503

# THE STATIC STALKER STORY

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*Note: The following is a true story. The names, callsigns and locations in this story have been changed. Any resemblance to any persons or places is purely coincidental.*

An amateur radio operator (whom we will call “Jon” – not his real name) had been frustrated with a hellacious noise level ruining his HF radio reception from aboard his classic wooden cabin cruiser docked inside his communal boathouse at his weekend retreat on the island known as Benjamin Cay. The QRN appeared months ago and Jon was at wit’s end at locating its source let alone eliminating it. He repeatedly wandered around the boathouse, checking AC line connections, wiggling exterior light bulbs, quizzing neighboring mariners, consulting the RFI gurus at a league office in the nutmeg state and just plain approaching mental implosion. Jon’s expensive all-everything HF transceiver sat idle inside his boat’s main cabin, the LCD bars hopelessly stuck at 20 dB over S/9 with nothing but a pervasive buzz blasting out of the rig’s overpriced external speaker.

Jon had to do something. Failure was not an option if he wanted to operate HF from his beloved Benjamin Cay during the summer. Not ready to admit defeat but ready to call for help, he drove across the drawbridge to the mainland in his Chrysler PT Cruiser, headed for the one place he knew he could go to get the ammunition he needed to solve this problem...his local “Radio Hut” store. After dodging several errant SUVs driven by texting trophy-wives, Jon parked the PT Cruiser in front of Radio Hut. He looked up at its classic illuminated sign, a reminder of when radios were radios, Jon thought, and when video games, digital cameras and cellular telephones weren’t the store’s primary retail products. He winced just thinking about the chain store’s pending name truncation to just “The Hut.” I guess they beat “Pizza Hut” to it, he thought.

Jon put out his cigarette in the ash can next to the door before he walked inside. The store manager, a turban-clad giant of a man named Babu, greeted Jon warmly from the front counter.

“Ah, hallo, my Jon-ajawn,” said Babu. How may I help you today? I know you are not here to complain about your cellular phone service.” The manager shook his head and added, “You no look so good.”

Jon walked over to the front counter, glanced down at the array of cellular telephones and digital cameras beneath the glass and then looked up at the store manager. “Babu,” said Jon, “I’ve got terrible static interference wiping out the whole HF band at the boathouse, day and night. I can’t seem to locate its source but, dammit, it’s got to be around there someplace!”

Babu smiled, adjusted his turban and waved his finger in the air. “Jon-ajawn,” he said, his voice dropping an octave, “I recently had the same problem at the home QTH. It was terrible. A few months ago, I had just finished my weekly CW schedule on 30 meters with my Uncle Waleed back in my home country. I thought my headphones were going to explode. It almost sounded like the same noise when the Soviets jammed me years ago ! I tried for days to find its origin. I had my youngest son come over and we went all over the house. It only seemed to be on 30 meters, though, but that is my best band to use to work back there. At the store a day or so later, I saw a man drive up in white Ford Explorer which was covered with antennas and had a ham radio license plate. The driver, he looked just like Neil Diamond!”

“From Diamond Antennas?” chuckled Jon.

No, you silly infidel, you know, the Canadian singer,” replied Babu. “My wife loves his songs. Anyway, only you and a few other hams come to my store these days, so I know most of them...but I had never seen him before. This man, he came in and wanted some diodes and some fuses. When he came to the counter to pay for the parts, I told him about my QRN problem and I asked him what he thought it could be. He said he didn’t know, but offered to drive to my QTH and see if he could track the QRN down. I told him he was welcome that evening after I closed up. He said just to call him on the club 6 meter repeater. His callsign was WB3MGV. After I closed up for the day, I called him on the repeater and he answered right away. Soon, he rolled up my driveway in his Ford Explorer and within 10 minutes, he had found the QRN source...and KILLED it!”

Babu snapped his fingers and his eyes bulged like Frisbees. “It was the ‘wall-wart’ on an old laptop of mine I use for logging my amateur radio contacts. I don’t know how I missed it,” Babu said as he slapped the counter.

“Do you think he could help me out?” asked Jon, tugging at his thick moustache.

“Sure. He sure knows what he is doing and he seems like a nice guy. My wife cooked a fabulous lamb kabob dinner for us when he finished. 30 meters never sounded so good,” said Babu, as he turned and reached into the desk behind him. “Here is his card. Give him a call. Tell him your friend Babu from Radio Hut sent you.” Babu handed Jon a business card which read:

**THE STATIC STALKER**  
**QRN Problems Located and Eradicated**  
**Zero Tolerance at Zero Cost**

Below this text was the callsign WB3MGV and a list of HF and VHF frequencies he monitored.

Jon thanked Babu and walked out of the store back to his PT Cruiser. A “Static Stalker,” Jon thought, as he drove back to Benjamin Cay, probably just what I need. Dude didn’t put a phone number or even his name on the card. “This is like in the movies when someone hires a hit man,” he chuckled out loud. Jon dialed up the club’s 6 meter FM repeater and put out a call for WB3MGV. To Jon’s surprise, WB3MGV quickly answered. “WB3MGV, this is WG4CZX,” said Jon, “I think I need your services, the name here is Jon.” Jon put the microphone down and lit a cigarette while he waited for the Benjamin Cay drawbridge to lower.

“WG4CZX, this is WB3MGV,” came the reply, “Sure, if you aren’t too far away, I can meet you this evening.” Jon detected a Maryland accent.

“I’m on Benjamin Cay at the Bethel Boat Houses” replied Jon. “We use 147.570 FM simplex around the island. Just call me on that when you’re coming up on the drawbridge and I’ll talk you in.”

“Sound great,” came the reply, “I’ll give you a call in a couple hours.”

“Wonderful, looking forward to your help,” said Jon, as he and WB3MGV signed off the repeater. Jon clapped his hands with glee as he puffed on his cigarette. Hit man enroute, he thought.

About an hour before sunset, Jon was aboard his boat and had just finished replacing some interior lights when his 2 meter rig crackled.

“WG4CZX from WB3MGV mobile, are you monitoring, Jon?” Jon tossed his tools down on the deck and grabbed the microphone.

“WB3MGV mobile, this is WG4CZX, good evening, sir.” Jon then radioed directions to WB3MGV and he soon saw a pair of headlights driving slowly towards the boathouse. He walked up the gangway just as an antenna-laden white Ford Explorer came to a stop under the levee lights. The front license plate was a small version of a Maryland flag and mounted directly underneath it was a half-size membership plate from a local volunteer fire department. The door opened and a clean-shaven, dark-haired man emerged, dressed in black cargo pants and a black shirt adorned with the white letters “QRN” which were in turn covered with a red circle and diagonal red line. He carried a small black satchel in one hand and his belt hosted a pager, a cellular phone and a hand-held radio. The guy did look like Neil Diamond, Jon thought, but where was the rest of his equipment? Jon figured the Static Stalker would be equipped with an arsenal of spectrum analyzers, military-grade receivers and direction-finding antennas that only a government contractor assigned to a place with lots of sand but no ocean would have.

“Hi, thanks for coming,” said Jon, as they shook hands. “C’mon, I’ll take you to the boat.” They both walked down the gangplank into the boathouse. Six cabin cruisers of various vintage were docked and each one was connected to large, thick shore power extension cords. Jon led the Static Stalker to a classic wooden cabin cruiser at one end of the metal boathouse.

“This is mine,” said Jon, proudly. A 1964 Schulercraft which was built not far from here.” The Static Stalker glanced over at the newer, fiberglass boats. Characterless plastic, he thought, they don’t make ‘em like they used to.

Jon watched as the man took a Grundig Yacht Boy YB-400PE portable HF receiver from the black satchel, extended its antenna and turned it on. Static noise blasted out its speakers and the man turned down the volume and spoke. “This sounds AWFUL!” he said, staring at the receiver in his hands.

"I know!" exclaimed Jon, taking another drag from his cigarette and waving his arms around. "It's been like this for months and I can't find the source!"

The Static Stalker dialed in 3.870 MHz on the Grundig and began walking around the boathouse. The noise was omnipotent. He then walked out of the boat house back on to the levee. The noise immediately disappeared and an amateur station using AM could be heard. Jon followed the man into an adjacent boathouse. The noise did not return.

"Are all the boat houses all wired up the same way?" he asked Jon.

"As far as I know, yes," Jon replied. "Another ham turned the power off but he said the noise was still there. I can turn the power off in my boathouse if you like." The Static Stalker nodded and they both walked back inside Jon's boathouse. Jon then reached over to a breaker box and threw a large lever which made a loud thud that echoed through the boathouse...then static disappeared.

"Okay, that's step one," said the Static Stalker. "Something inside one of these boats is causing this. I found a marine refrigerator on a sailboat once that was a thermonuclear QRN generator. Any of these boats new in town?"

"Naw and that's the problem," Jon replied. "These same boats were around for years before the QRN started."

"Turn the power back on," said the Static Stalker. Jon pushed the switch back up and the noise slowly gurgled back on the receiver.

"That's the boats cycling back up," said Jon. He watched as the Static Stalker walked up and down the dock, turning the Grundig to periodically null out the noise. He spent several minutes around the boat at the opposite end of the boathouse, the farthest one from Jon's. The Static Stalker suddenly stopped, turned his head almost like a gun turret and faced Jon. He slowly motioned Jon to walk over to him.

The Static Stalker then spoke in a slow and forceful tone. "This one, this boat. It's...*here*," he said, pointing with his finger. "Now pull that shore power plug out of its wall receptacle." He stared at Jon and nodded.

"With pleasure!" Jon growled as he put his cigarette in his mouth, reached for the coconut-sized yellow plug and yanked it out with a furious blast of cigarette smoke. The noise abruptly disappeared from the Grundig's speaker...and did not return. Jon took a deep drag on his cigarette and his hands shook...the Static Stalker had not only FOUND the QRN...he had KILLED IT !!

"Wait a minute, don't plug that back in yet," said the Static Stalker as he quickly walked back to Jon's boat at the other end of the boathouse. "I want to make sure that I can't hear that noise over by your boat, either." After he reached Jon's boat, he stood with the Grundig in his hands, smiling...the static was nowhere to be heard up or down the dial.

"I guess you can just leave that boat unplugged when you operate or wire in an isolation transformer," he said.

"I know the boat owner," Jon said, "and he is hardly ever around. Something must have gone wrong with his battery charger or something." He hung the shore cable up with glee and said, "Hallelujah! Thanks, Static Stalker!"

"You're very welcome," the Static Stalker replied. "Just doing my job. What we just did helps keeps the faith and spirit of amateur radio alive." He turned off the Grundig and put it back in the satchel. "Well, aren't you going to get on the air?"

"Not yet," Jon replied, lighting another cigarette, "our next stop is the 'Rusty Propeller' restaurant where dinner is on me!"

*For further reading on a more extensive QRN investigation involving a rogue cordless telephone and the FCC: Craig, Ralph C., AJ8R. "What's That New Signal on 80 Meters?" QST, February 1989, p. 18-20.*



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

## 12 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU !

Free UPS ground delivery in Continental USA for most orders over \$100  
HRO has Twelve Store Buying Power Working For You

### HRO - 12 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

Free UPS ground delivery in Continental USA for most orders over \$100

HRO has Twelve Store Buying Power Working For You

All HRO stores open 10AM-5:30PM, Telephone hours 9:30AM-5:30PM



### Order Toll-Free From a Location Near You

*If your closest 800 number is busy, please call one of our other numbers.*

*Phone Hours: 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday - Saturday*

For delivery charges or other information about ordering, please see our [Frequently Asked](#)

### HRO Store Contact Information

Store	E-mail	Direct	Toll Free	Fax
Anaheim, CA	ana@hamradio.com	1-714-533-7373	1-800-854-6046	1-714-533-9485
Atlanta, GA	atl@hamradio.com	1-770-263-0700	1-800-444-7927	1-770-263-9548
Burbank, CA	bnk@hamradio.com	1-818-842-1786	1-800-854-6046	1-818-842-5283
Denver, CO	co@hamradio.com	1-303-745-7373	1-800-444-9476	1-303-745-7394
Newcastle, DE	del@hamradio.com	1-302-322-7092	1-800-644-4476	1-302-322-8808
Oakland, CA	oak@hamradio.com	1-510-534-5757	1-800-854-6046	1-510-534-0729
Phoenix, AZ	px@hamradio.com	1-602-242-3515	1-800-444-9476	1-602-395-1244
Portland, OR	or@hamradio.com	1-503-598-0555	1-800-854-6046	1-503-684-0469
Salem, NH	nh@hamradio.com	1-603-898-3750	1-800-444-0047	1-603-898-1041
San Diego, CA	sd@hamradio.com	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705
Sunnyvale, CA	sun@hamradio.com	1-408-736-9496	1-800-854-6046	1-408-736-9499
Woodbridge, VA	va@hamradio.com	1-703-643-1063	1-800-444-4799	1-703-494-3679

## W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATURN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30pm Fat City 10 meter SSB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057

224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM TV 919.25 MHz AM TV

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

## Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County 145.680 Simplex

Pete Perata K6SHE

East County 146.535 Simplex

Drew Hanson, KD6GLY

South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD

West County 145.110/- -

Steve Adams, KF6WNH

### March and April 2010 Club Calendar

March 19, 2010	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting, <b>**UPSTAIRS**</b> <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>
April 5, 2010	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Buttercup Bar &amp; Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek</i>
April 3, 2010	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i>
April 16, 2010	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting, <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>



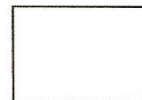
### The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

[www.mdarc.org](http://www.mdarc.org)



## FIRST CLASS